

Message Text

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53

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 AGR-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 ARAE-00 SSC-01 /068 W
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O R 011734 Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 485

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 2793

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJECT: MINISTER AND ADVISER REPORTEDLY RESIGN

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 2600

BEGIN SUMMARY: MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES, FERNANDO MONTES MATAMOROS, AND ADVISER VICENTE WILLIAMS AGASSE REPORTEDLY SUBMITTED WRITTEN RESIGNATIONS TO CHIEF OF STATE ON JUNE 30. BOTH ARE MEMBERS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC) WHICH HAS COME UNDER ATTACK IN RECENT DAYS FOR BEING INVOLVED IN THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL UNION OF CAMPESINOS (UNC) HUNGER MARCH. THE MARCH RESULTED IN A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN CAMPESINOS AND THE ARMY THAT LEFT FIVE DEAD, TWO WOUNDED AND A NUMBER OF CAMPESINOS IN PRISON. MONTES AND WILLIAMS PROBABLY DECIDED THAT THEIR SITUATION WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT HAD BECOME UNTENABLE. EFP SUMMARY.

1. REPORTEDLY MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES FERNANDO
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MONH S MATAMOROS AND CHIEF OF STATE ADVISER VICENTE WILLIAMS
AGASSE PRESENTED THEIR WRITTEN RESIGNATIONS TO CHIEF OF

STATE MEGMAR AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS LATE AFTERNOON OF
JUNE 30. TTHEY CONTINUE IN OFFICE UNTIL THE CHIEF OF STATE
ACCEPTS THE RESIGNATIONS.

2. BOTH ARE MEMBERS OF THE CHRISTIUZ DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC)
WHICH HAS COME UNDER INCREASING ATTACK IN THE PAST WEEK.
THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL UNION CAMPESINOS (UNC)
WAS THE PRIME MOVER BEHIND THE RECENT HUNGER MARCH THAT RE-
SULTED IN A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE ARMY AND CAMPESINOS IN
JUTICALPA WHICH LEFT A TOTAL OF FIVE DEAD, TWO WOUNDED AND A
NUMBER OF UNC LEADERS AND MEMBERS BEHIND BARS. MEDIA AND
INDIVIDUAL COMMENT HAVE QUESTIONED WHETHER MONTES AND WUBLIAMS
SHOULD REMAIN IN THE GOVERNMENT IN VIEW OF THEIR RELATIONSHIPS
TO THE PDC. WILLIAMS WROTE A SCATHING LETTER TO TIEMPO AFTER
A FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL QUESTIONED WHAT THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS
REALLY WANTED AND WHETHER THERE WAS COMPLETE LOYALTY IN
GOVERNMENT TO CHIEF OF STATE.

3. MONTES HAS BEEN CARRYING ON A RUNNING FIGHT WITH INA
DIRECTOR LT. COLONEL MARIO MALDONADO MUNOZ ABOUT THE PACE
AND NATURE OF AGRARIAN REFORM. MONTES TOLD POLOFF (SEE REFTTEL)
THAT HE WAS NOT IDEOLOGICALLY COMFORTABLE IN HIS POSITION AND
DID NOT KNOW HOW LONG HE WOULD BE ABLE TO STAY. IN THE SAME
VEIN, PDC SECRETARY GENERAL LANDAVERDE TOLD POLOFF THAT
PARTICIPATION BY PARTY MEMBERS IN THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT IN
KEEPING WITH THE PARTY'S IDEOLOGICAL "PURITY". HOWEVER, HE
SAID THAT MONTES AND WILLIAMS WERE ACTING AS INDIVIDUALS
INTERESTED IN ACHIEVING PRAGMATIC RESULTS FOR THE COUNTRY.

4. MONTES AND WILLIAMS PROBABLY DECIDED THAT THEIR SITUATION
WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT WAS UNTENABLE. ADDED TO "IDEOLOGICAL
DISCOMFORT" WAS THE UNC ACTION THAT CAUSED MANY SECTORS TO
ACCUSE THEM OF BEING HAND-IN-GLOVE WITH THEIR KFRISTIAN
DEMOCRATIC
ALLIES. SUCH ACCUSATIONS COULD DO LITTLE BUT
DAMAGE THEIR ABILITY TO TAKE ACTION WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT
AS WELL AS CALLING INTO QUESTION THEIR LOYALTY TO THE REGIME.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TEGUCI02793
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: CP
Film Number: D750228-0125
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750798/aaaagsiq.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TEGUCIGALPA 2600
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971010
Subject: MINISTER AND ADVISER REPORTEDLY RESIGN
TAGS: PINT, HO, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, PINT, (MONTES MATAMOROS, FERNANDO), (WILLIAMS AGASSE, VICENTE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006